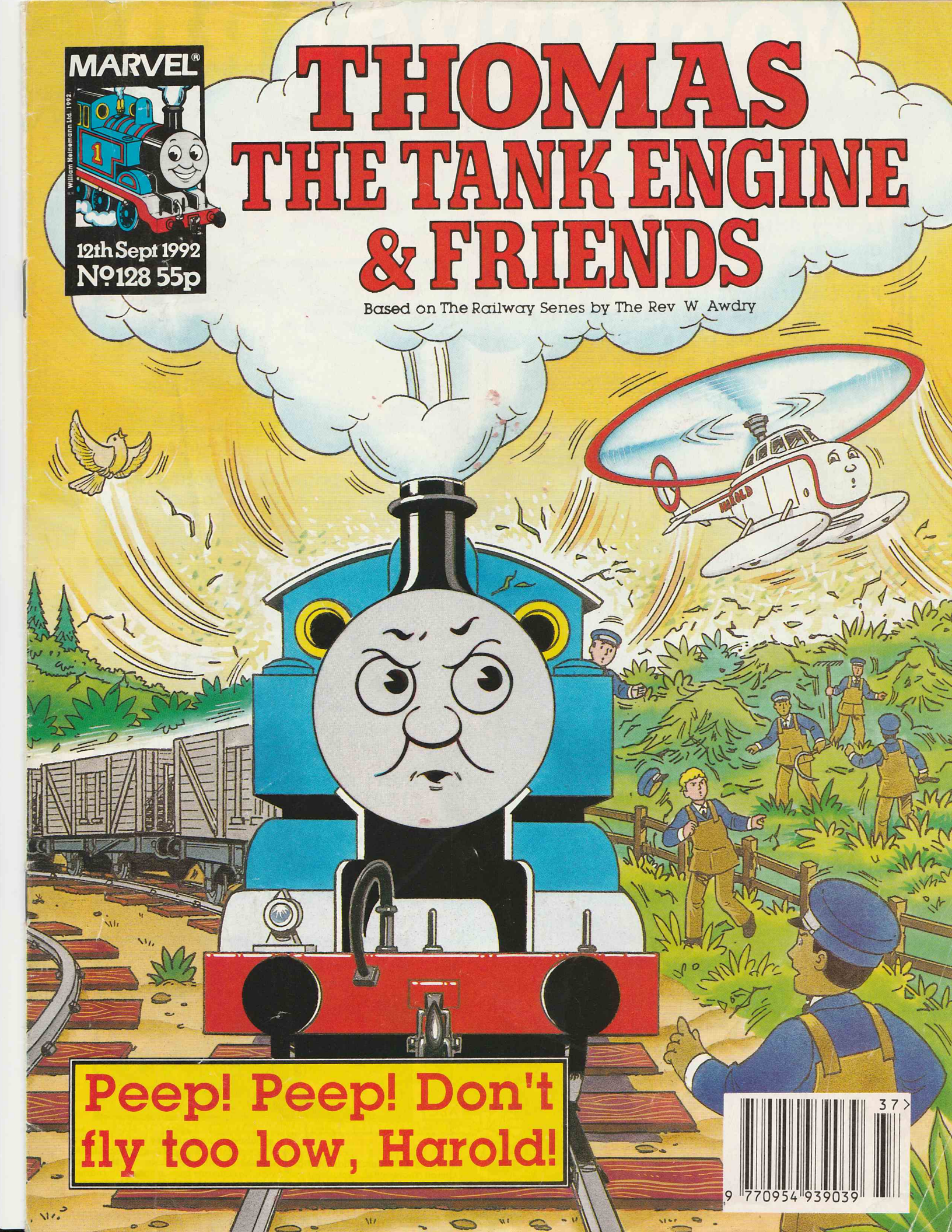
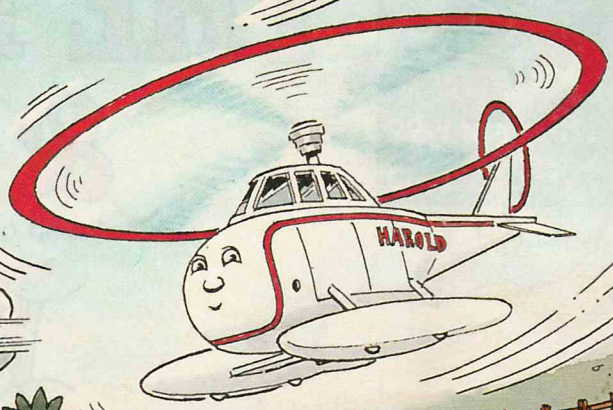

MARVEL®
William Heinemann Ltd. 1992
12th Sept 1992
No.128 55p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry
HAROLD
Peep! Peep! Don't fly too low, Harold!
37
9 770954 939039

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Harold the Helicopter is very different from all his friends on the Island of Sodor! Could Harold be the most useful of all the Fat Controller's friends? You can find out when you read the story that begins on page 3! Don't miss our second story either when Thomas gives the Fat Controller a new idea! Peep! Peep!

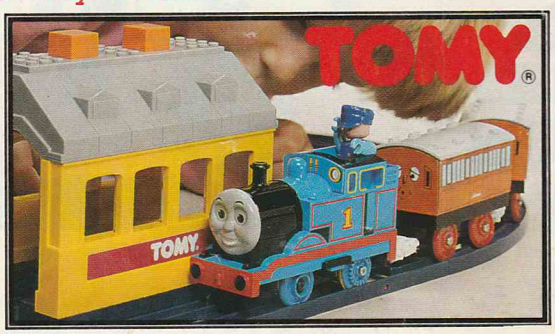


SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for your chance to win one of three fantastic prizes from *ERTL (UK) Ltd*, including a **3-piece diecast playset** (see below), a **Thomas Remote control engine** and a **Thomas Standard Diecast model!**

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue **(129)** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine. You will be able to enter a special two part competition featuring new exciting train sets courtesy of *Tomy Trains!*



HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC

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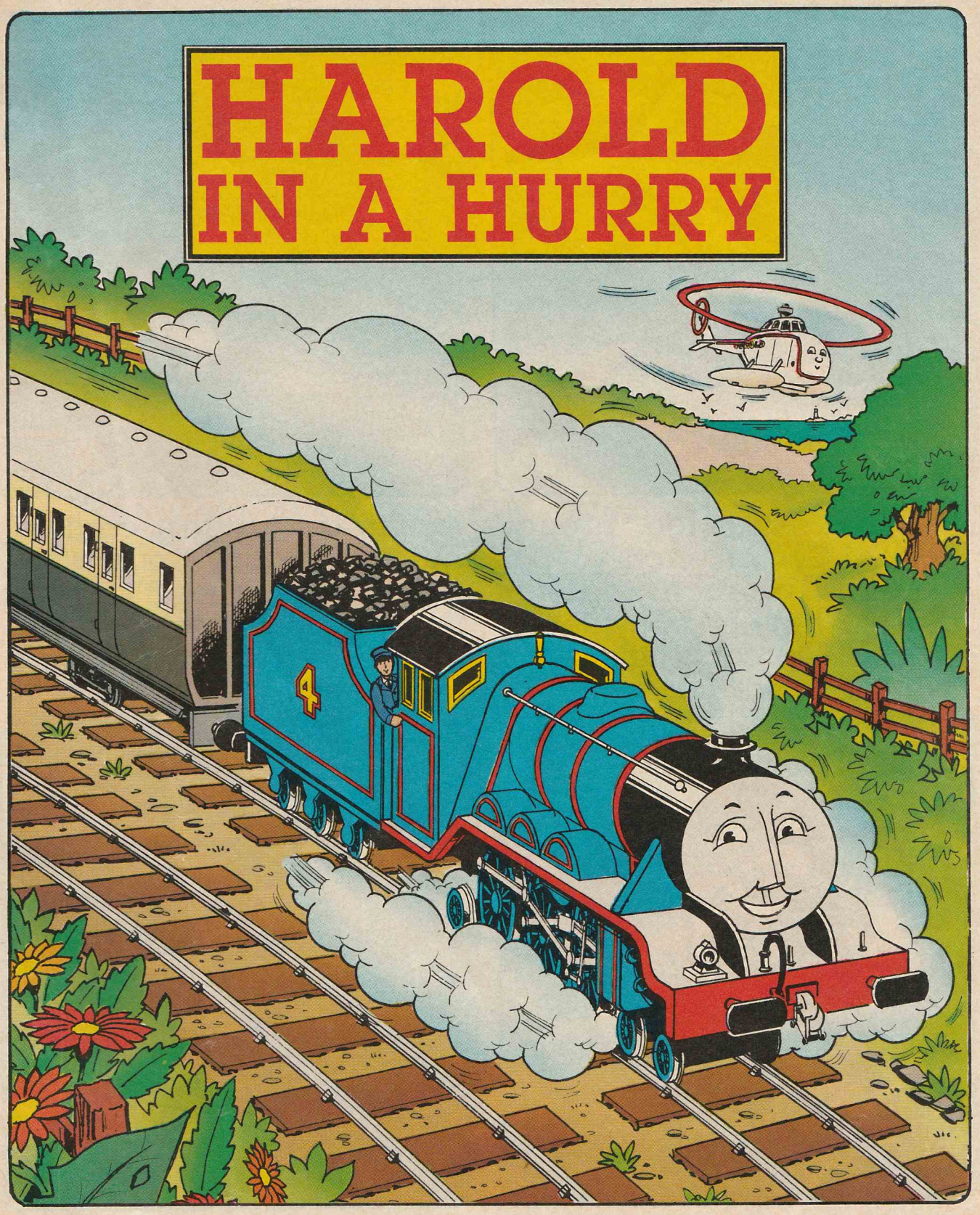
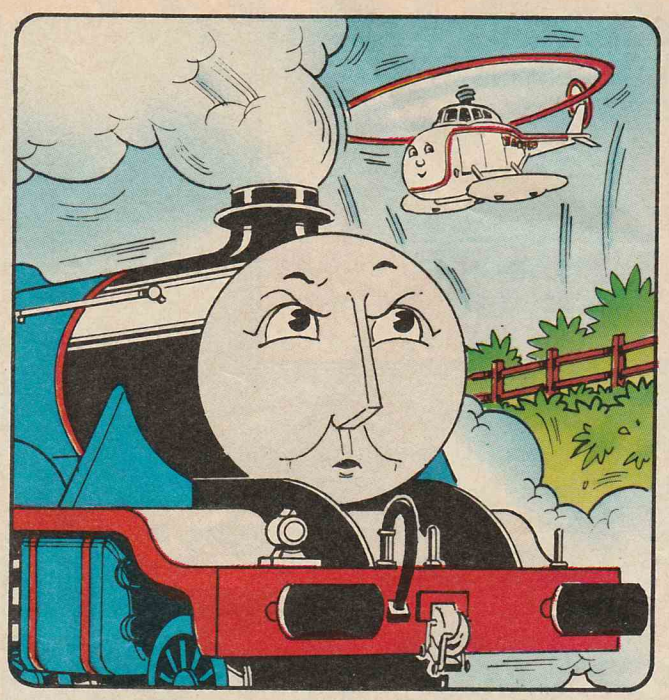
HAROLD IN A HURRY

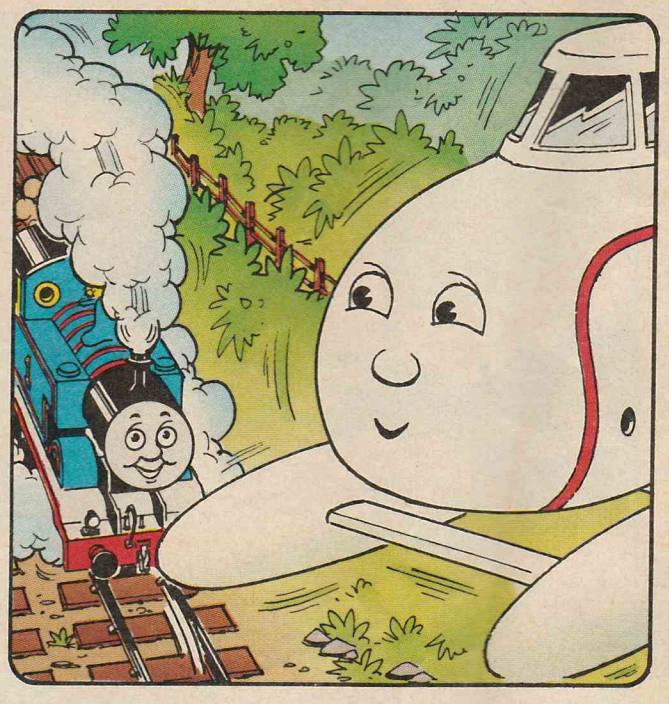


1. Gordon enjoyed pulling the Express. He raced along the main line. "I am the biggest and fastest engine on the Fat Controller's railway!" he thought importantly.

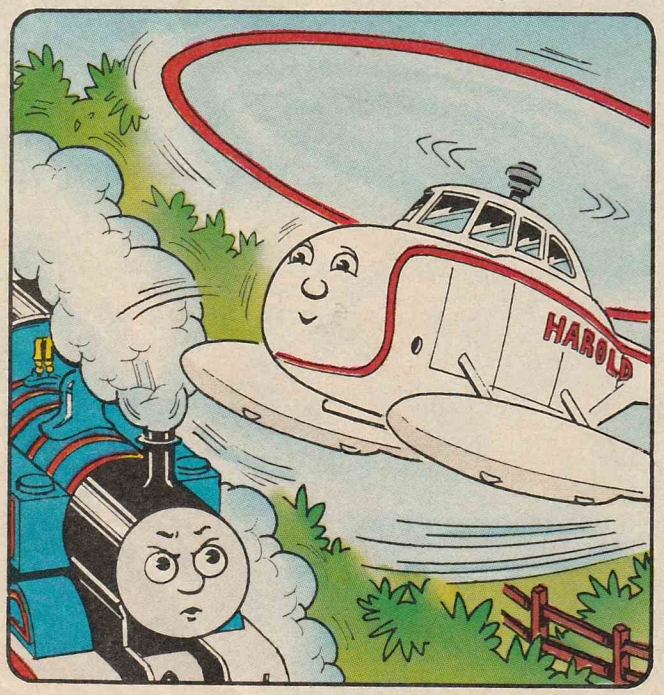
2. Imagine his surprise when Harold the Helicopter flew past. "Hurry up, slowcoach! It's a pity you can't fly, like me!" he called. Harold's big arms rotated in the sky.



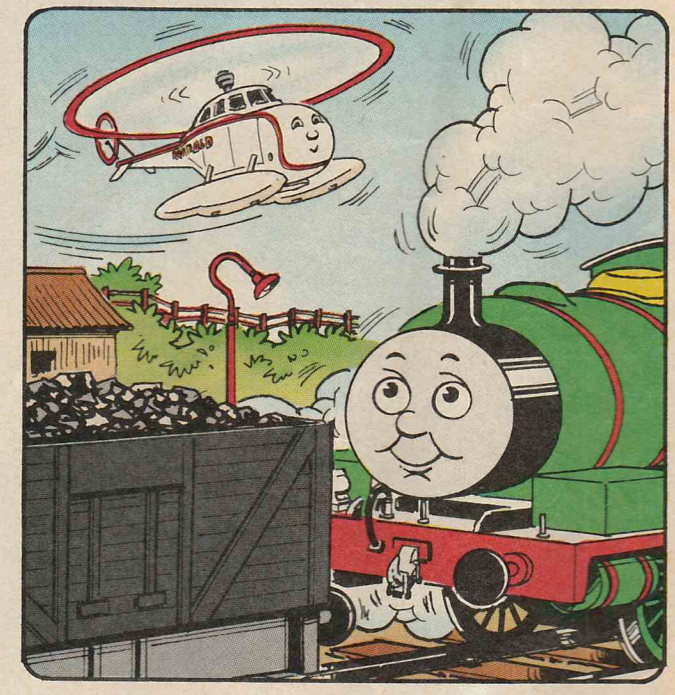
3. "You are too proud!" replied Gordon, crossly. "Call me a slowcoach, indeed!" Harold hovered beside the track. "You can't help being old-fashioned!" he laughed.



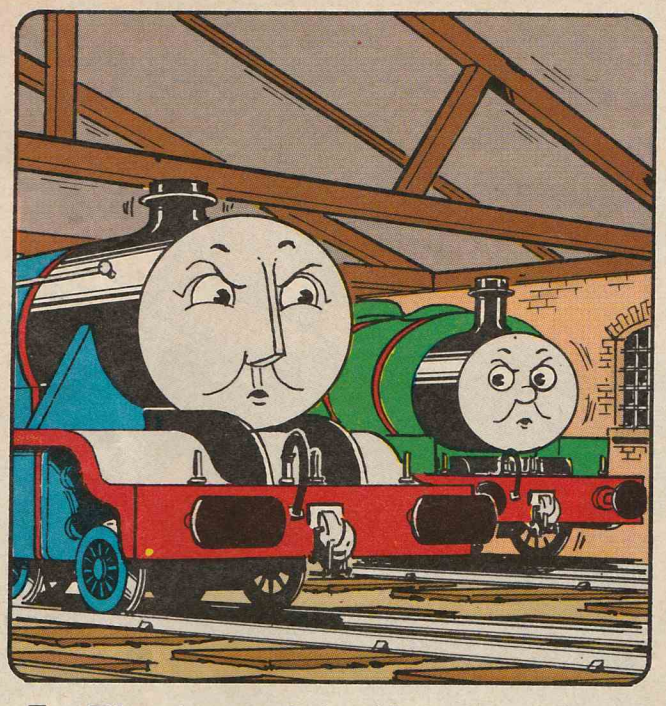
4. "I'm a very fast engine!" huffed Gordon. "Look at all the coaches I pull!" Harold flew further down the line and saw Thomas pulling trucks full of logs.



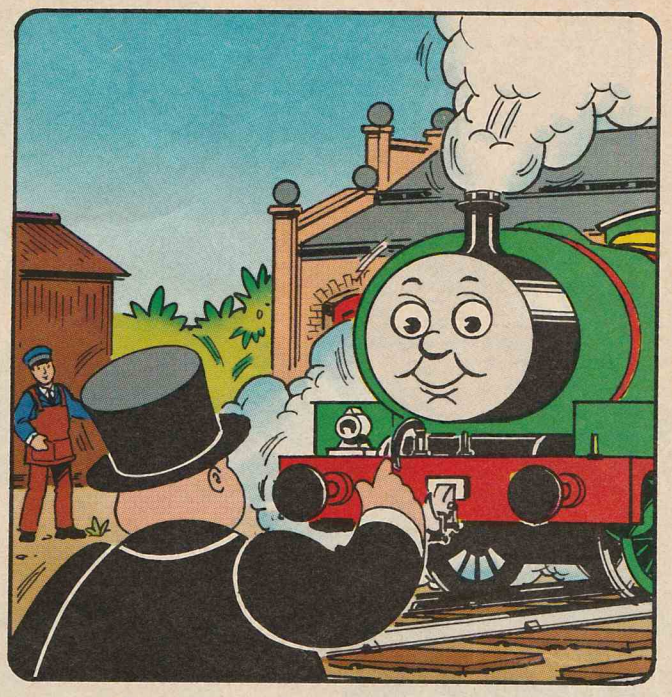
5. "Shall I carry those logs for you, Thomas?" asked Harold. "You are puffing so hard, you might burst your boiler!" "What a cheek!" fumed Thomas as Harold flew off.



6. Later, Harold flew over Percy. "I can't stop!" called Harold. "I have to take the Mayor to a special meeting!" Percy looked up. "What a show off!" he thought.

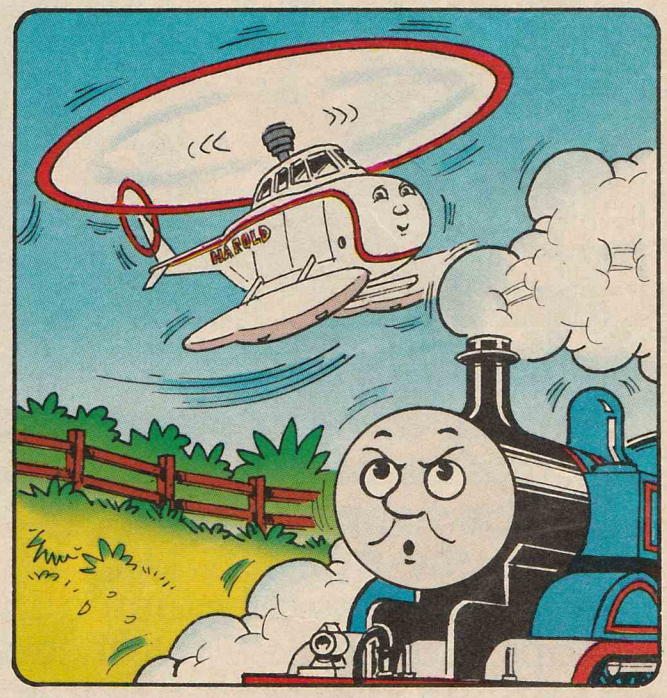


7. That night, the engines grumbled about Harold. "He thinks he is so up-to-date and fast!" huffed Gordon. "Engines are just as important as helicopters!" said Percy.



8. Next day, the Fat Controller told Percy to take some gangers up the line. The men were to cut the grass near the track. "The railway must look smart!" he said.

9. When Thomas returned from pulling the morning train, he was coupled to some trucks. He was to collect the grass and take it to the farms to feed the animals.



10. No sooner had Thomas puffed out of the yard when Harold zoomed overhead. He was carrying a new saw for the sawmill. "I can get things delivered quicker!" he teased.

11. "Yes! But engines are just as useful as helicopters," said Thomas as he passed. When Thomas stopped by the track where the gangers worked, he saw the grass gathered in heaps. Harold flew overhead again. He knew the cut grass was taken to the farms each year. "I could deliver the grass to the farms even quicker, Thomas!" he called.

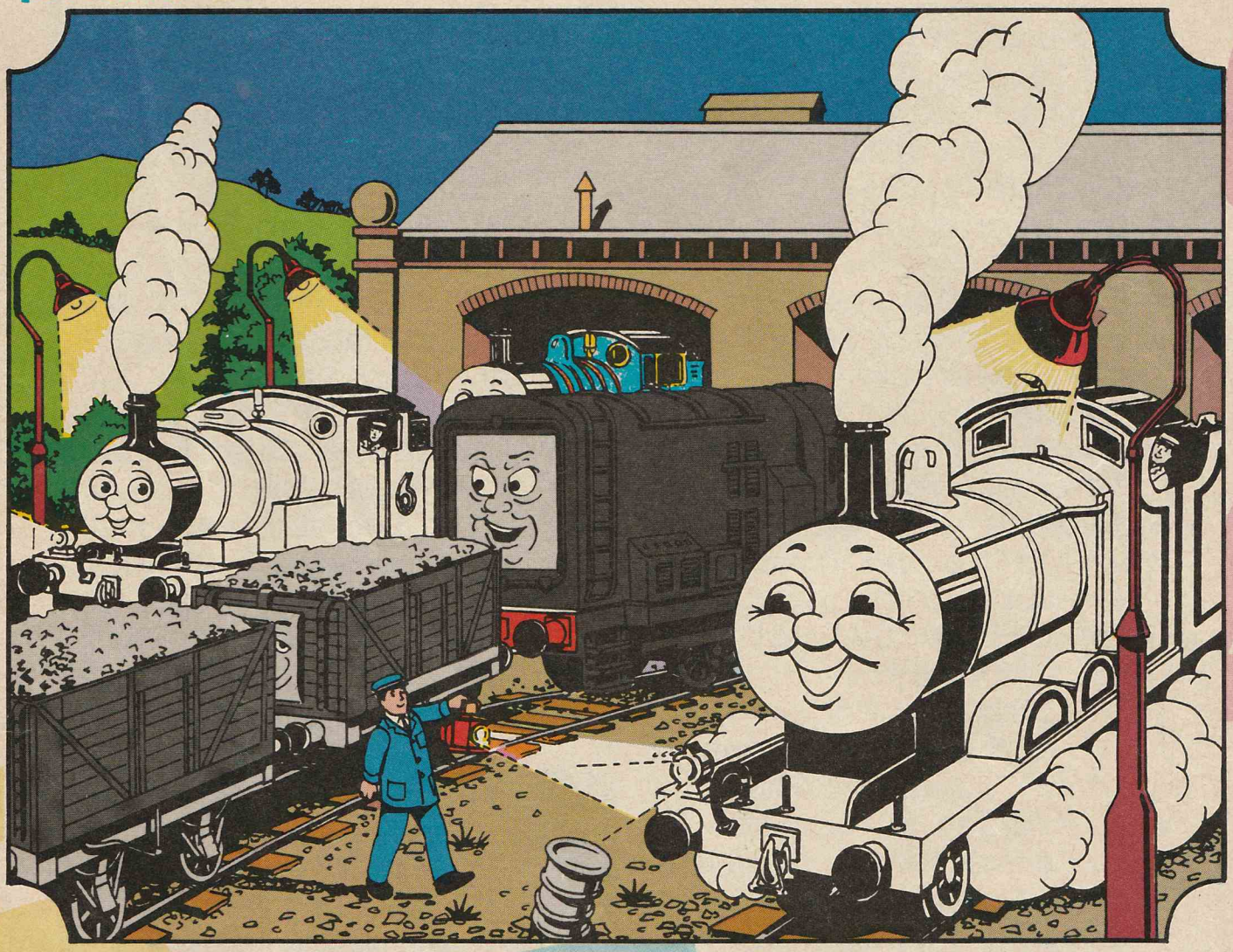
12. However, when Harold hovered lower, his whirly arms began to blow the grass everywhere. The men were very cross. They would have to gather up all the grass again. Harold was very sorry and apologised to Thomas for causing such a mess. "Perhaps helicopters aren't always as useful as engines!" sighed Harold.

THE END

In our next issue: Duck and the Deer!

COMPLETE THE PICTURE!

Look at this splendid picture! It shows some of the Fat Controller's engines by their sheds. Two of the engines have been left uncoloured. You can complete the picture and colour them with your brightest crayons. Once the picture is fully coloured, take a pen or pencil and name each engine you have coloured. All the engines have different numbers (printed below). You can also practice writing these numbers by using the dotted guidelines provided!



The two engines you have coloured are called **P_ _ _ _** and **J_ _ _ _** ! and they are numbered **5** and **6** on the Fat Controller's Railway! You can now write your own numbers using the dotted lines to help you!

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

THOMAS AND THE UMBRELLA

It was a very special day for Thomas. He had been washed and polished until his paintwork shone. He looked really splendid as he rolled smartly out of the engine shed.

"The Fat Controller has asked me to take Lady Hatt into Wellsworth on a shopping trip," he boasted to the other engines

"You'll get your nice, clean coachwork wet!" teased Percy. "It is going to rain."

"It's worth getting wet for such an important task!" said Thomas proudly.

His faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, were sparkling clean too. They were coupled to Thomas. Then he puffed into the Main Station. Among the people waiting on the platform, Thomas saw the Fat Controller with his wife, Lady Hatt.

"Take care to go smoothly," the Fat Controller told Thomas. "Lady Hatt must have a comfortable journey!"

The Fat Controller opened one of Annie's doors and helped Lady Hatt in. Thomas's guard waved his green flag and Thomas set off eagerly. He chugged along his branch line until he arrived at Wellsworth station.

Thomas pulled up carefully beside the platform and Lady Hatt stepped out of Annie. Soon Thomas puffed on his way again to pick up more passengers at stations farther along the line. When Thomas returned to Wellsworth station, it had started to rain hard just as Percy had said. The wind blew strongly. Lady Hatt hurried out of the waiting room, carrying some bags.

"I've finished all of my

shopping!" she told Thomas's driver. "I bought a lovely new umbrella to keep me dry. But this wind is so strong it blew right out of my hand and over the station roof. I've lost it!" Thomas was puzzled.

When Lady Hatt was seated aboard Annie, Thomas spoke to his driver. "What is an umbrella for?" he asked.

"People hold them up to stop the rain falling on their heads!" said the driver. Thomas wondered what an umbrella looked like.

The stationmaster checked his watch and blew on his whistle. It was time for Thomas to leave. He huff-puff-chuffed out of the station. The wind was blowing stronger than ever. Suddenly, something flew past Thomas's face. It was big and round and bright red. The object landed in a tree beside the line. Thomas was so startled he forgot to go smoothly. Annie and Clarabel clattered on their couplings.

umbrella

"What's wrong, Thomas?" called his driver.

"A strange bird has landed in that tree!" replied Thomas.

Thomas's driver shut off steam and pulled on the brake. He climbed out of his cab and went to the tree. Thomas watched as his driver reached up and lifted down the colourful object. Lady Hatt wondered why Thomas had stopped. She watched from a window in Annie.

"Gracious! That's my umbrella she called. The driver hurried along the track and returned it to her.

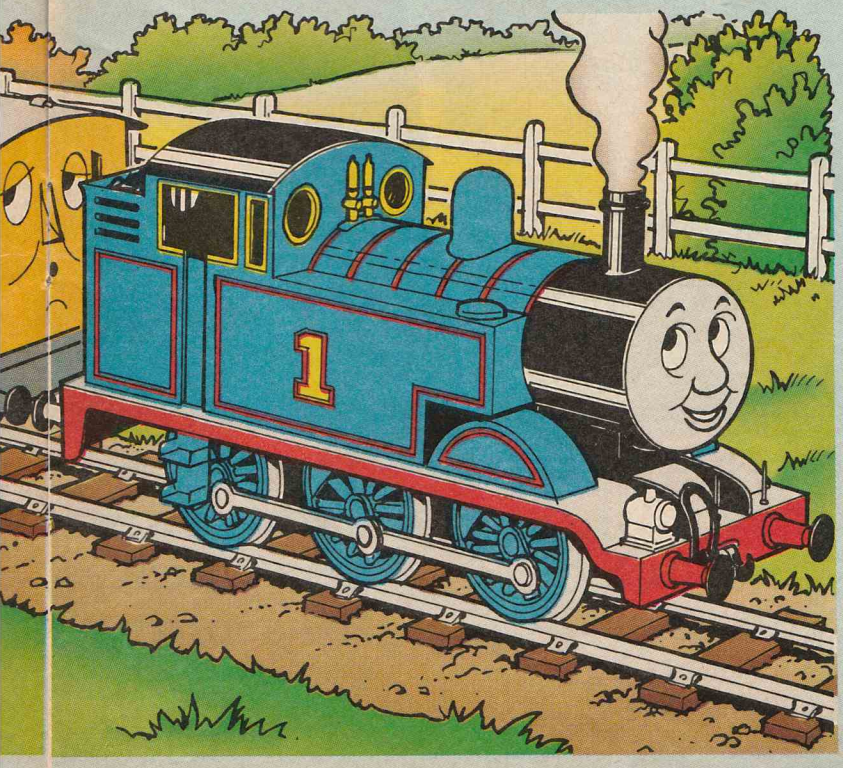
"It was Thomas who spotted it!" he said.

Back at the Main Station, Lady Hatt told the Fat Controller how Thomas had found her flying umbrella.

The Fat Controller thanked Thomas.

"You have been a Really Useful Engine!" he said.

THE END

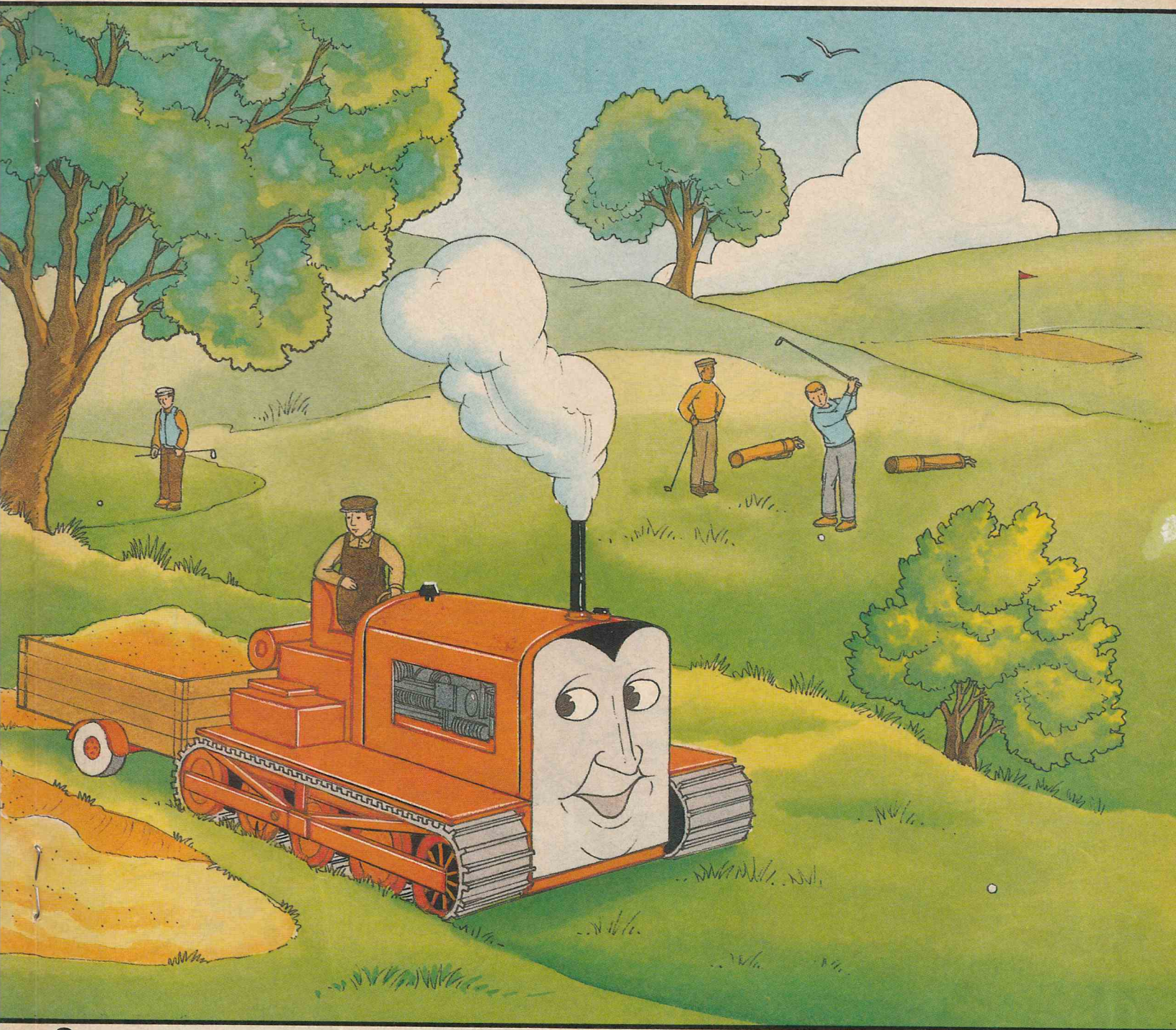


On the golf

Which engine can you see?
What is he carrying in his truck?
How many guards can you see?
What are they doing?

Can you see
How many go
How many fla
What colour

f course!



ee Harold the Helicopter?
y golfers can you count?
y flags can you see?
ur are they?

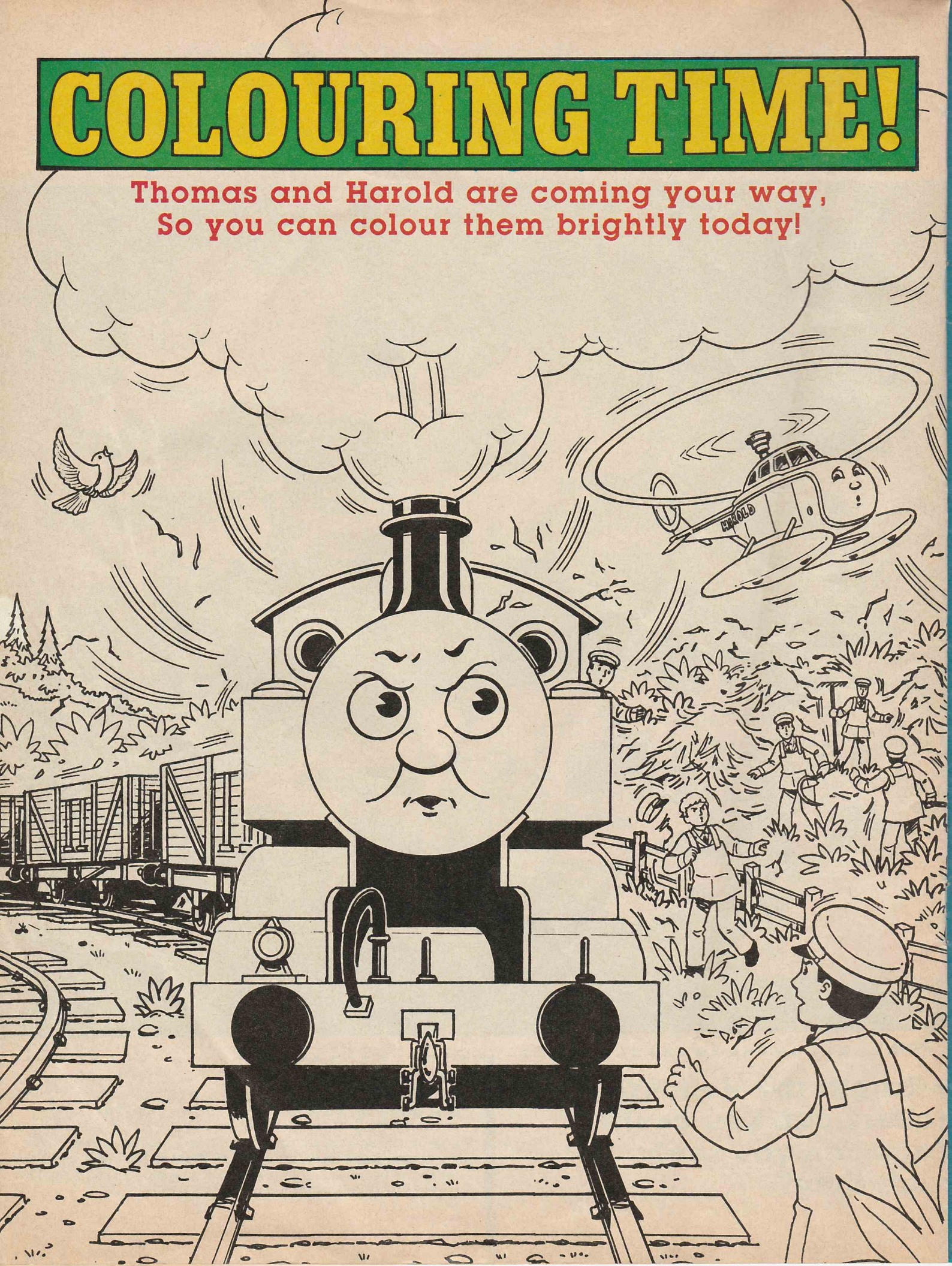
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

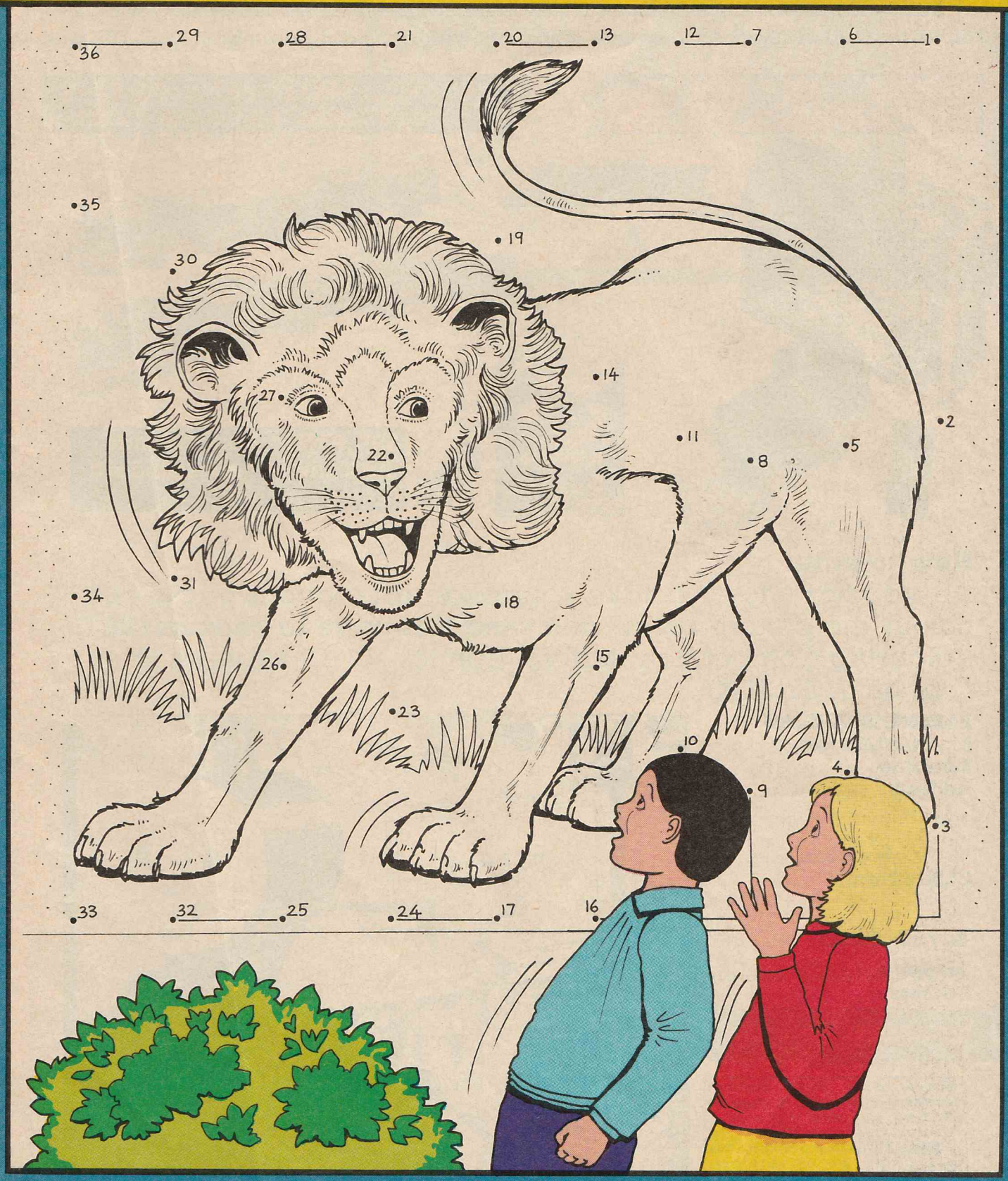
In our next issue: Out of the quarry!

COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas and Harold are coming your way,
So you can colour them brightly today!**



JOIN THE DOTS!



Stephen and Bridget get a surprise at the zoo,
What do you think they are looking through?

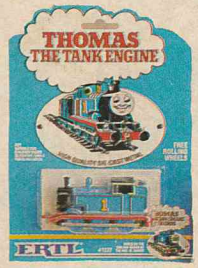
COMPETITION!

You have another chance to win one of the following splendid prizes from ERTL (UK) Ltd.

1ST PRIZE: 12 Thomas the Tank Engine Remote Control Engines!

2ND PRIZE: 24x3 piece Standard Sets including Thomas, Annie and Clarabel!

ERTL®



3RD PRIZE: 24x3 Thomas the Tank Engine Standard Diecast models!

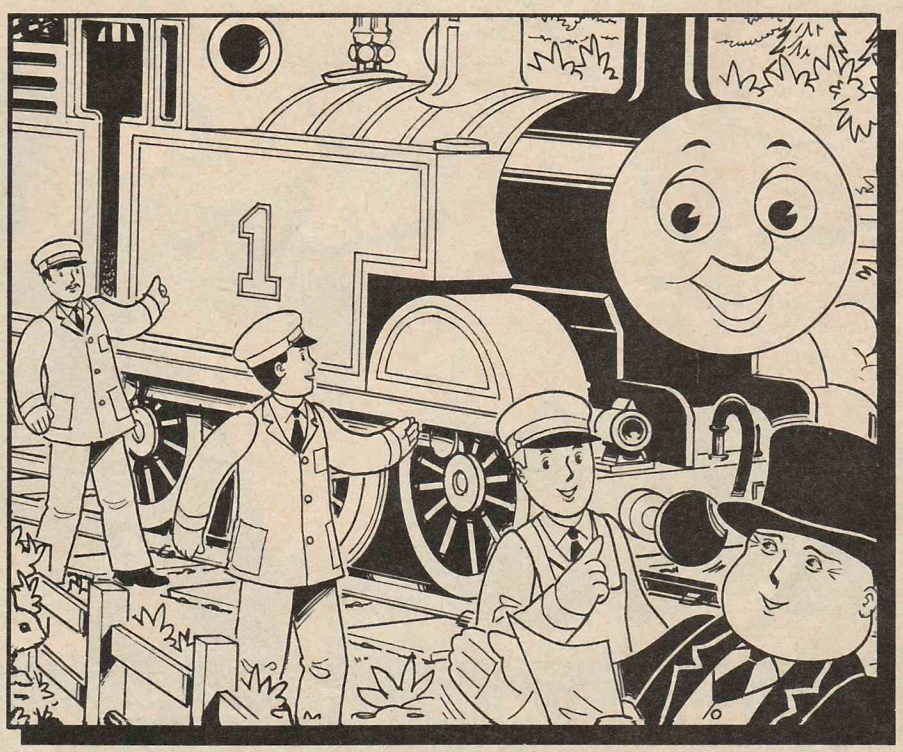
How to enter:

All you have to do is take your brightest crayons or pencils, colour the picture below and send this page to Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

PARENT/GUARDIAN
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....**Postcode**.....
Child's Name.....

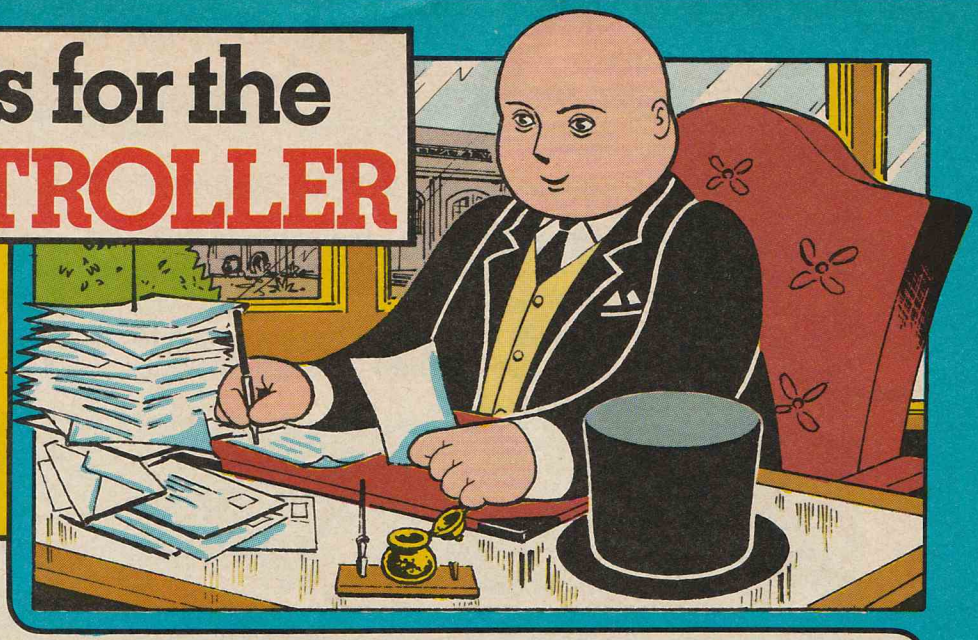
Boy ☐ Girl ☐
Surname.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....**Postcode**.....

Please note that Marvel Comics occasionally makes its mailing list available to a carefully screened list of companies whose products we feel would be of interest. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these mailings. ☐



Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My daddy took me to the **National Railway Museum** in York. It was really good. We saw some very oily Diesel trains!

Love from **Daniel**, aged 4.

You must feel very privileged to have visited the York Museum as it is one of the very finest railway museums! I do believe that the museum contains forty locomotives many of which are also steam engines!

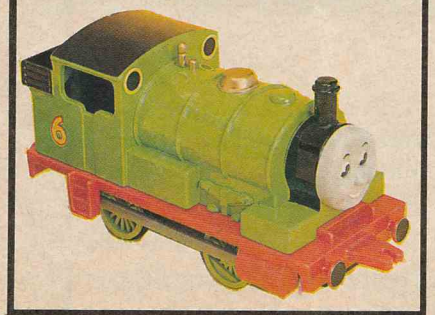
HELPFUL ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Auntie read some of my favourite Thomas stories when I was in hospital last month. I had a big operation and I had to stay there for two weeks. Reading your stories made me happy! Thankyou for helping me to get better!

Love from **Joel Long**, aged 2.

Well Joel! Thomas and all his friends have asked me to tell you how pleased they are that you are now feeling fit and well!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid motorised model of Percy from *ERTL (UK)* Ltd.



THOMAS'S VISITOR!

Dear Fat Controller,
When we go to see my Auntie in Nottingham we go to the **Nene Valley Railway**. Last time we went there Thomas was not very well. Can you tell me if he is alright now?

Love from **Stuart Boyde**, aged 5.

Yes Stuart! Thomas is feeling much better now. On that occasion, he felt unwell because he had gone too fast and he had also sprung a leak in one of his pipes!

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out to.....

Adam Ward, Wesley Dean, Anthony Brooke (37206), Geoffrey Andrews (38529), Thomas Wright, Matthew Gothard, Christopher Vreany (21356), Paul Lyth (35436), Jesse Silvertown, and Tommy Anderson.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

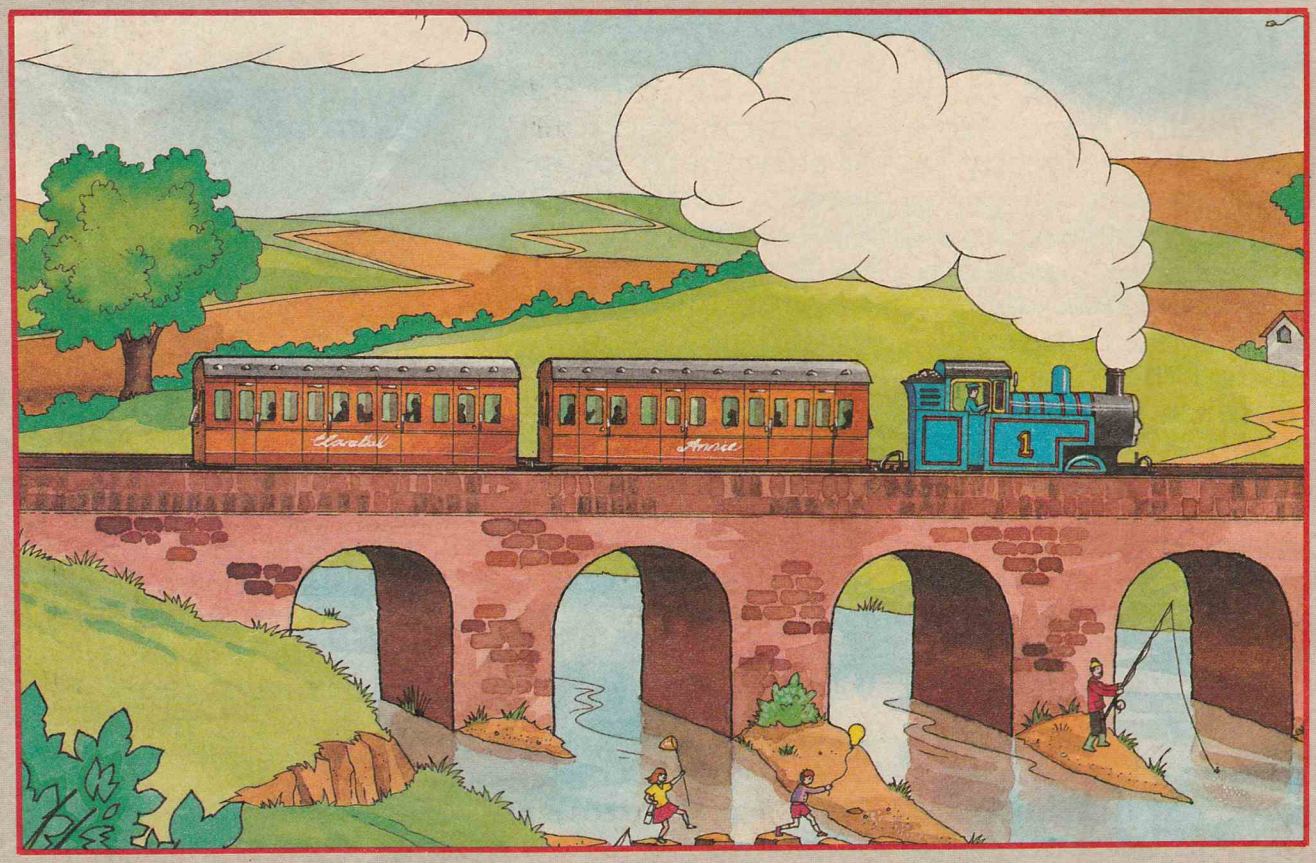
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



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☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas) 17H
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas) 18M

Child's name .....
Address .....
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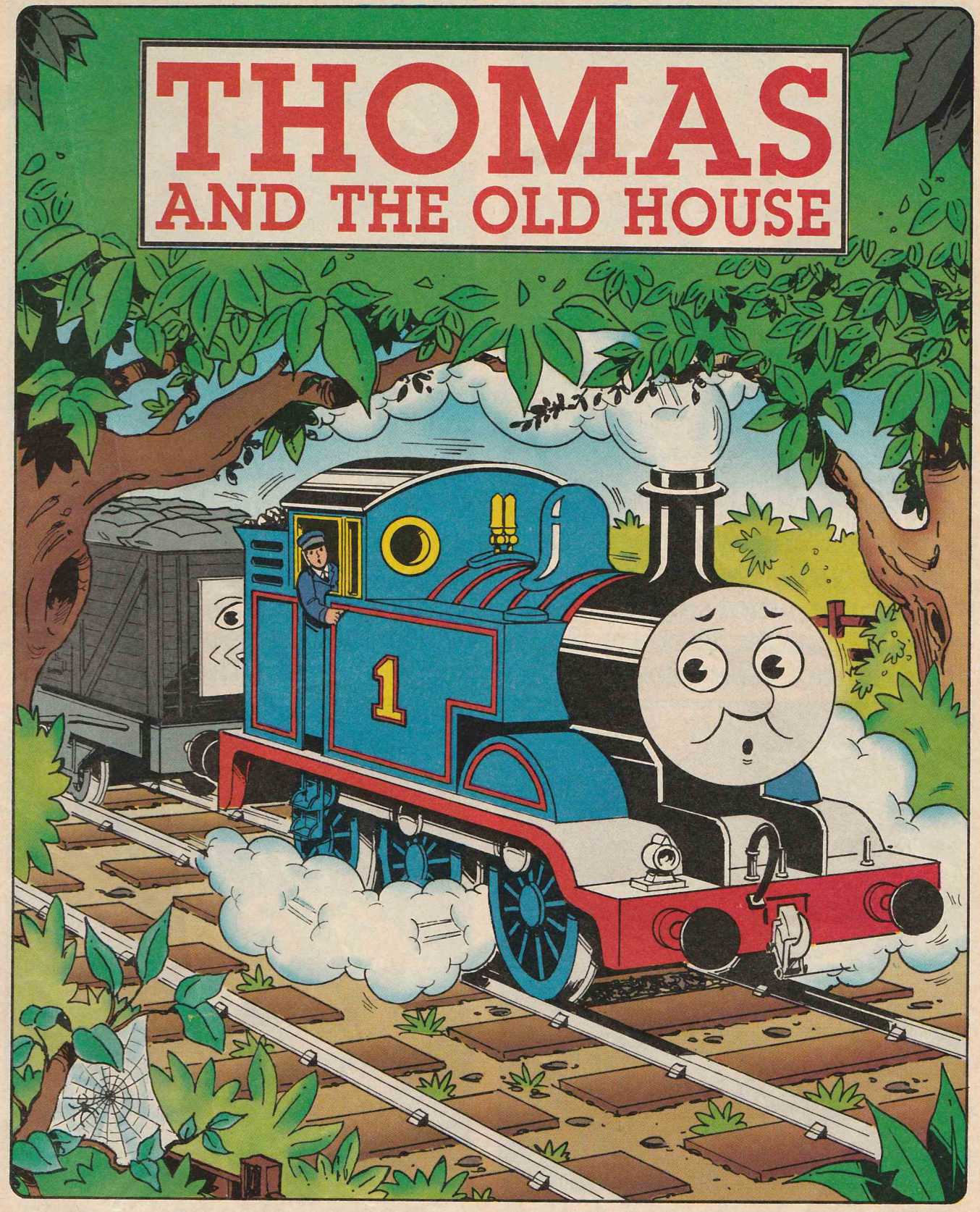
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

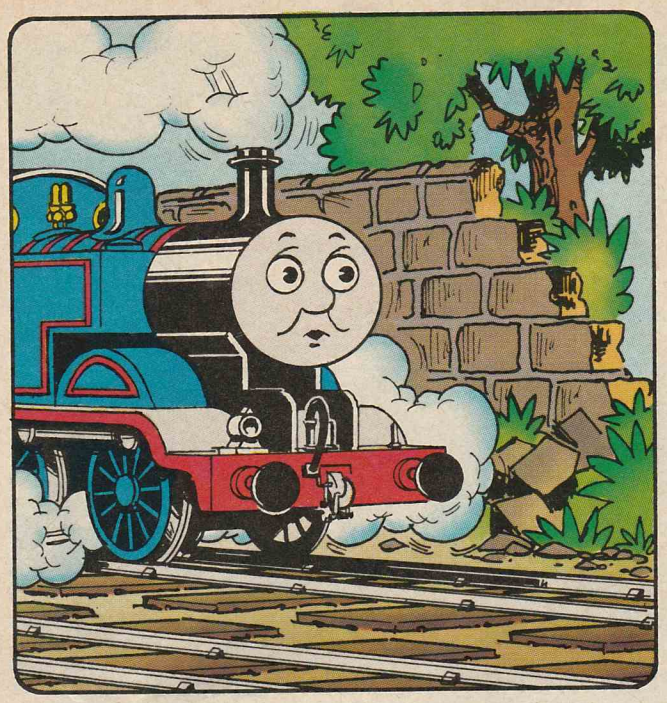
(Tick boxes where appropriate)

THOMAS
AND THE OLD HOUSE



1. One day, Thomas was to deliver some animal feed to the hill farms. A section of his branch line was being repaired, so Thomas set off along a different line.

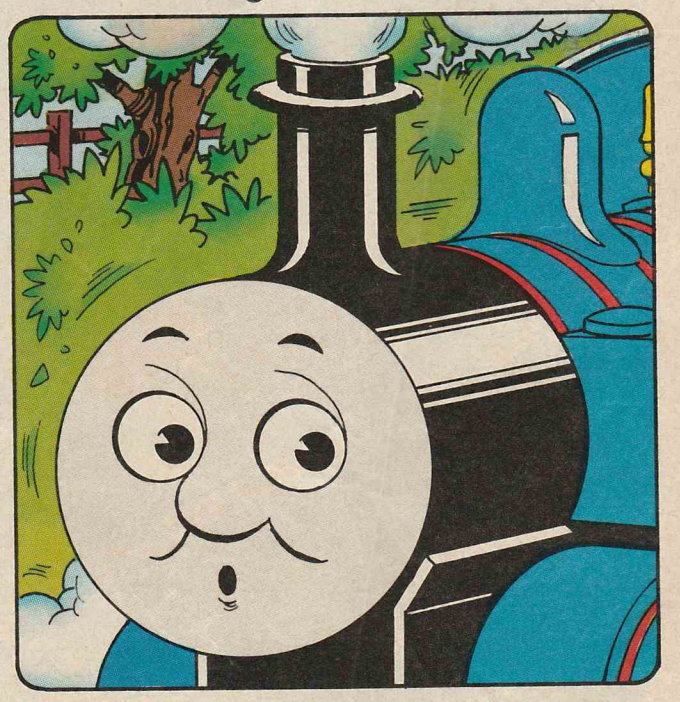
2. The line had not been used for a long time. "What an adventure!" he thought. The line was overgrown. Low branches brushed Thomas's funnel as he puffed by.



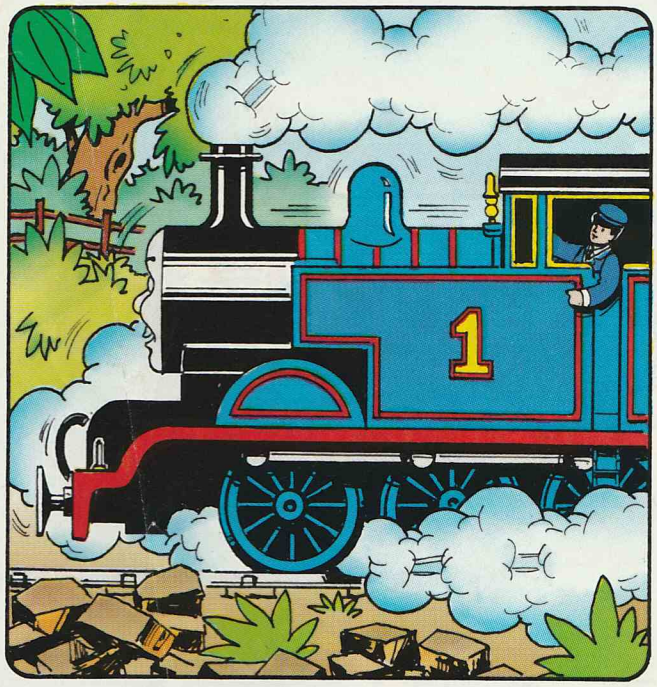
3. "Peep! Peep! I like mystery journeys!" he whistled. There was a wall beside the track. "I wonder what's on the other side?" thought Thomas. Some bricks had fallen down.

4. Through the hole in the wall, Thomas saw a house in a huge garden. The house was crumbling. "I'm sure that house looked really splendid once!" thought Thomas.

5. The garden looked untidy. "No one has lived in that house for many years!" said Thomas's driver. Suddenly, he saw some bricks on the line and pulled on the brake.

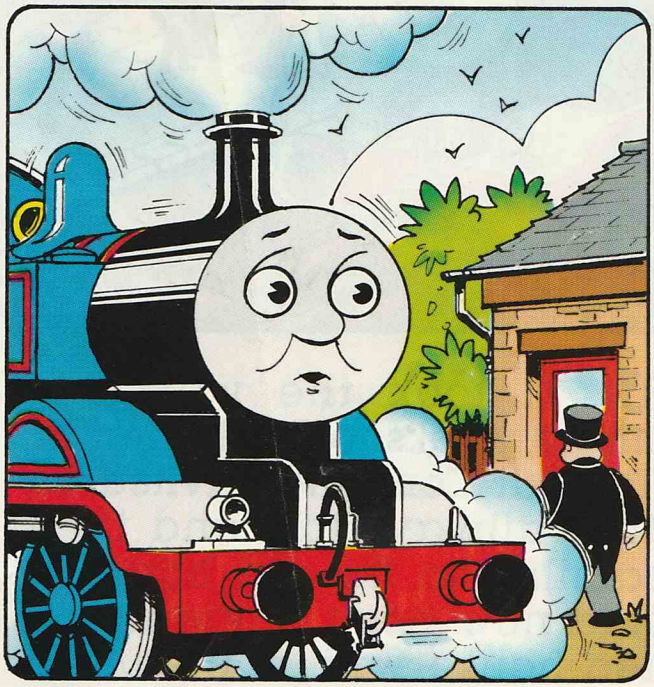


6. Thomas stopped just in time. "Cinders and ashes!" he gasped. "I could have run right into those bricks!" The bricks had fallen from a part of the wall on to the track.

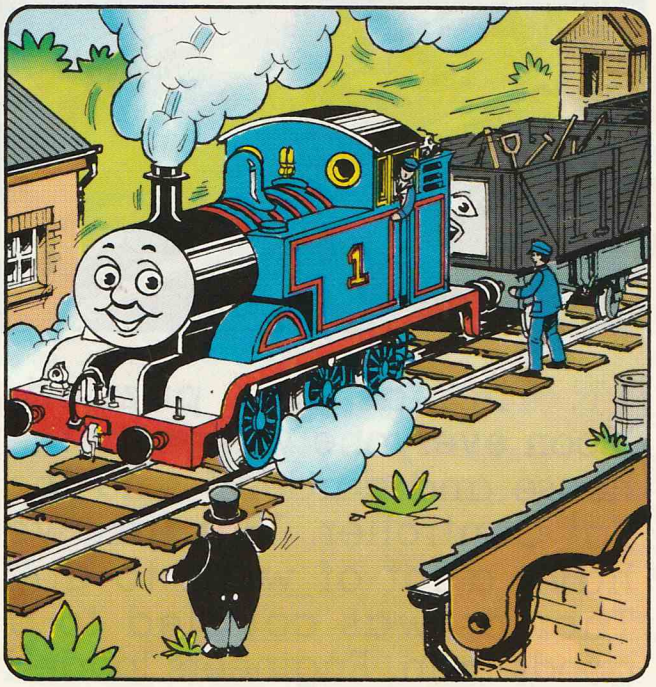


7. Thomas's driver and fireman moved all the bricks so the line was clear. Thomas puffed on his way again to the hill farms. Later, he returned to the Main Station.

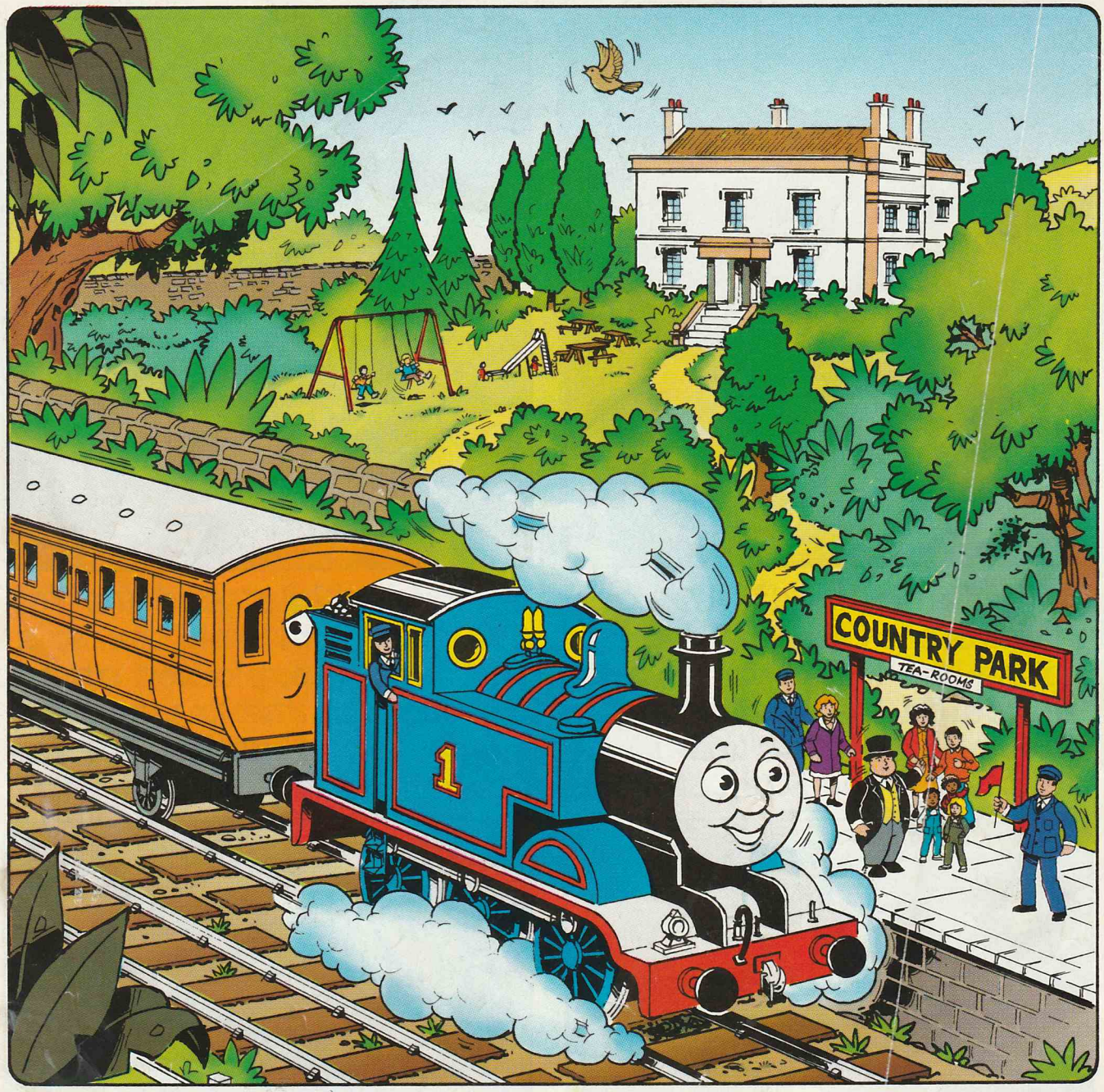
8. "You are late!" said the Fat Controller. "I'm sorry, sir!" said Thomas. He explained about the bricks on the line and the old house and garden. The Fat Controller listened carefully.



9. "Well done, Thomas!" he cried. "It's just what I've been looking for!" Thomas was puzzled. "Why would the Fat Controller be interested in a ruined house?" he thought.



10. Next morning, the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas. "After you told me about the old house, I telephoned the owners and they have agreed to sell it to me!"



11. Thomas was puzzled. "Soon everyone will enjoy the house and garden," said the Fat Controller. "But first we have a lot of work to do!" Thomas was coupled to a goods train. Engineers loaded their equipment on board and Thomas took them to the old house. Some men cleared the garden while others repaired the house.

12. It took the workmen many weeks to finish the job. The Fat Controller invited all the railway staff and their families to the old home. It had now been made into a tea-house with a beautiful garden. Thomas was chosen to bring the guests. "I declare the Country Park open!" said the Fat Controller. Thomas felt very proud indeed.

THE END

In our next issue: Gordon's spots!